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CLAIMS

1. A keyboard and display assembly comprising:
a liquid crystal display capable of displaying information on a plurality of lines;

5 a processor controlling the information depicted on the display;
and

a keyboard having a plurality of data entry keys coupled to the processor and at least one contrast key for controlling the contrast of the liquid crystal display, the contrast key being coupled to the liquid crystal display bypassing the processor.

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2. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the display is capable of displaying information on at least five lines.

3. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 1 including a first contrast key for increasing the display's contrast and a second contrast key for decreasing the display's contrast.

4. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 1 including a potentiometer coupling the contrast key to the display, the potentiometer changing its resistance in response to the contrast key being actuated.

5. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 1 including a digital potentiometer coupling the contrast key to the display, the digital potentiometer changing its resistance in response to the contrast key being pressed.

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6. A keyboard and display assembly comprising:
a display capable of displaying information on a plurality of
lines;

a processor controlling the information depicted on the display;

5 a keyboard having a plurality of keys coupled to the processor
and at least one contrast control key coupled to the liquid crystal display
by a potentiometer such that the coupling of the contrast control key
bypasses the processor.

7. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 6
wherein the display is capable of displaying information on at least five
lines.

8. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 6
wherein the potentiometer is a digital potentiometer that changes its
resistance in response to the contrast key being pressed.

9. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 6
wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

10. A keyboard and display assembly comprising:
a liquid crystal display capable of displaying information on at
least five lines;

a processor controlling the information depicted on the display;

5 a keyboard having a plurality of keys coupled to the processor
and a first contrast control key coupled to the liquid crystal display by a
potentiometer to increase the display's contrast and a second contrast
control key coupled to the liquid crystal display by the potentiometer to
decrease the display's contrast, wherein the first and second contrast

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10 control keys are coupled to the liquid crystal display bypassing the processor.

11. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein the display is capable of displaying information on at least seven lines.

12. A keyboard and display assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein the potentiometer is a digital potentiometer that changes its resistance in response to either the first or second contrast key being actuated.